

HOUSE BILL 2283

By Hill M

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 63,  
Chapter 5, relative to dental hygienists.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-5-108(c)(2), is amended by designating the existing language as subdivision (A) and adding the following subdivision:

(B) The practice of dental hygiene includes dental hygiene diagnosis. A dentist must confirm any dental hygiene diagnosis that requires treatment that is outside the scope of dental hygiene practice as defined in this section. For purposes of this section, "dental hygiene diagnosis" means the identification of an existing oral health condition that a dental hygienist is qualified and licensed to treat within the scope of dental hygiene practice. "Dental hygiene diagnosis" focuses on behavioral risks and physical conditions related to oral health.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-5-108(f), is amended by deleting the subsection and substituting the following:

(f)

(1) Except as provided in subdivision (f)(2), a licensed dentist shall not allow, under general supervision, more than three (3) dental hygienists to work at any one (1) time.

(2) A dentist may supervise no more than ten (10) dental hygienists while the dentist and each hygienist is providing dental services on a volunteer basis through a nonprofit provider of free mobile clinics in this state.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-5-108(h), is amended by adding the following subdivision:

(6) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, if a dental hygienist is authorized by this part to place sealants or apply fluoride to a patient, then the dental hygienist may place sealants or apply fluoride to a patient even if the patient has not been the subject of a prior examination by a dentist.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020, the public welfare requiring it.